THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir, (b) Does not arise.

Health Hazard Caused by Injecting Oxytocin into Cows and Buffaloes

*136. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Oxytocin is being injected into cows and buffaloes on a large scale, to increase their milk yield;

(b) whether Oxytocin infected milk can retard growth and cause heart, liver and kidney problems, particularly among children;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to stop injection of oxytocin in milch cattle which is a human health hazard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) Oxytocin is injected in the case of milch cattle with problems in let down of milk. There have been some reports of misuse of oxytocin injection by farmers in dairy animals, particularly in buffaloes, at the time of milking under the erroneous impression that it increases milk production.

The drug is rapidly metabolised in the liver and the kidneys so that undetectable levels remain in circulation) and, therefore, continued presence of oxytocin in milk or beef is unlikely. Moreover, according to the information available, there are no published reports on adverse effects of milk or beef containing high amounts of oxytocin. However, the State Drug Controllers have been advised to keep a strict vigil on the manufacture and sale of oxytocin in accordance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in order to prevent its misuse.

National Policy for Slum Dwellers

*137. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of slum dwellers in Mumbai have become homeless following demolition of jhuggies recently;

(b) whether the Central Government have received any representation petition against such demolition; if so, the details thereof, alongwith the steps taken thereon: and

(c) whether Government propose to prepare some national policy, plan or legislation for habitants of Jhungi-Jhopries across the country: if so, the details thereof and if not, in what manner Govenment propose to rehabilitate or create shelters for cross of slum dwellers across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) As reported by the Maharashtra Government, demolition of hutments on 36 acres of land in Survey No. 263 at Malwani was undertaken from 13th June, 1997 to 18th June, 1997, 7000 huts were removed from this land.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Central Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956 extends to all Union Territories except the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Laccadives, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, but not to the States. The National Housing Policy formulated in August, 1994 envisages the following measures to be taken by the Central and State Governments for slum development:

— avoid forcible relocation or dishousing of slum dwellers;

— encourage in-situ upgradation, slum renovation, and progressive housing development with conferment of occupancy rights wherever feasible, and to